

Q2 this drawback a first elementary counter is used for the addressing of the first stage of switches having an adjustable counting capacity, the elementary counters are equipped for the addressing of the intermediate stages of switches with controllable shunting circuits, and the global counter is reconfigured, at the end of each counting cycle of the first elementary counter, with the aid of commands for adjusting the capacity of the first elementary counter, and for activating or inhibiting the shunting circuits, these commands being stored in the form of a string of instructions executed one by one.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present preliminary amendment original Claims 1-12 are cancelled and new Claims 13-24 are presented for examination. New Claims 13-24 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including original Claims 1-12, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new Claims 13-24 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with cancelled Claims 1-12. In fact in certain aspects new Claims 13-24 are broader. For example, new Claims 13-24 no longer recite the term "consisting of" but instead recite the broader term "comprising".

A new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is also submitted herein.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423



22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
GJM:SNS\la
I:\atty\SNS\199060us-pr.wpd

199060US-2-X PCT

Marked-Up Copy

Serial No:

Amendment Filed on:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

Claims 13-24 (New).

IN THE ABSTRACT

(New).